

Message Text

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52/46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 DPW-01

T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01

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O R 151145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8700

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

COMUSMACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 4252

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT AND MRN 4252 VICE 8254)

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 MARCH 15.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I ICCS: SHARP ARRIVES IN SAIGON: XE MAT, LAO BAO RECEED:
CANDEL, INDODEL DEPLOY TO HONG NGU.

PART II FPJMC: PW RELEASES; US CONCLUSIONS ON DUC PHO INCIDENT.

PART III VIETNAM PRESS CHARGES 7,124 VIOLATIONS.

PART IV MR 1: SENIOR AN QUANG BONZ E' S COMMENT S.

PART V MR 2: RESETTLEMENT PLANNED IN PHU BON.

PART VI MR 3: WAR VICTIMS RESETTLED.

PART VII MR 4: SERIOUS TERRORIST INCIDENT IN VINH BINH;
LONG ICCS INVESIGATION.

PART I: ICCS

1. POLDEL SOURCE TELLS U THAT PRG/ DRV DELS HAVE CONTACTED HUNGDEL CHAIRMAN O ICCS FINANCE/ ADMIN COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO PAYING THEIR RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICCS.
2. INDODEL MEMBER WHO ATTEMPTED TO COMIT SUICIDE MARCH 14 AS REPORTED SITREP REMAINS ON CRITICAL LIST BUT HIS SITUATION HAS SLIGHTLY IMPROVED.
3. CANADIAN EXTAFF MIN SHARP ARRIVE IN SAIGON THIS AFTERNOON AND IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS SCHEDULE AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. WITH SHARP IN TOWN, THERE WILL BE NO PLENARY SESSIONS THIS WEEK.
4. ACCORDING TO CANDEL OPERATIONS CENTER, FIRST RECCES OF XA MAT AND LAO BAO WERE COMPLETED TODAY AS SCHEDULED AND SECOND RECCE WAS MADE OF GIO LINH, CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS ALSO DEPLOYED TODAY TO HONG NGU WITHOUT HUNGDEL/ POLDEL REPRESENTATIVES WHO AT THE LAST MINUTE REFUSED TO GO.

PART II: FPJMC
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1. PW RELEASE: ANOTHER 1200 COMMUNIST PW' S WERE SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE MARCH 15; AS OF 1730 HOURS, ALL 1200 HAD LEFT PHU QUOC AND THE RELEASE AT QUANG TRI WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN GOING SMOOTHLY. GIVEN THE LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PW' S THAT CAN BE MOVED DAILY THE US DELEGATION TO THE FPJMC HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING PW RELEASES MOVING.
2. ALSO IN THE MARCH 14 MEETING OF THE FPJMC CHIEFS, THE U. S. AS HOST OPENED THE MEETING BY ANNOUNCING CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE US ON THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED RVN VIOLATIONS IN THE VICINITY

OF THE DUC PHO PW RELEASE SITE. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONFUSION ON THE LOCATION OF THE RELEASE SITE, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT PW RELEASES WERE GOING TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE GENERAL AREA. RVN FORCES HAD CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA WHICH, IN US OPINION SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN LIGHT OF SCHEDULED PW RELEASES. US MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PW RELEASES: 1) THERE SHOULD BE FULL AGREEMENT ON EXACT LOCATION OF SITES; 2) SITES SHOULD BE CHOSEN IN AREAS WHICH ARE NOT CONTESTED TO PRECLUDE THE CHANCE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS TAKING PLACE; 3) RETURN OF PW'S WAS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE THAT RELEASES SHOULD CONTINUE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

PAR III CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS (VNP) CHARGED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD COMMITTED 7,124 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS UP TO 0600 MARCH 15, 1973. ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE 13,755 KIA, 203 CIA. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 2,659 KIA, 12,684 WIA AND 695 MIA. 311 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, 925 WOUNDED AND 787 ABDUCTED.

PART IV MR 1

1. AIRBORNE AO (QUANG TRI) CONTINUED TO BE THE MAJOR TARGET FOR INDIRECT FIRES. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS APPROXIMATELY 260 NEW HOUSES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN COMMUNIST CONTROLLED SECTIONS OF QUANG TRI, OPPOSITE THE AIRBORNE AND MARINE AO'S. GVN ARTILLERY REPORTEDLY EXPENDED 3,373 ROUNDS, 1,620 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 1,753 SOUTH. THERE WERE NO VNAF SORTIES OR NVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT MISSIONS REPORTED.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN POLOFF MARCH 13, SENIOR AN QUANG BONZE THICH HANH DAO OFFERED THE OPINION THAT PRESIDENT THIEU'S ATTENDANCE OF THE FUNERAL OF SUPREME PATRIARCH THICH TINH KHIET
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ON MARCH 9 REPRESENTED AN INFORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE AN QUANG BUDDHIST ORGANIZATION (AQBO). HANH DAO STATED THAT THE AQBO APPRECIATED THE PRESIDENT'S GESTURE BUT THAT BY ITSELF, THIS WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN QUANG AND PRESIDENT THIEU. HANH DAO COMMENTED THAT IF PRESIDENT THIEU SERIOUSLY WISHED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH AN QUANG, HE WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE OFFICIALLY THE LEGITIMACY OF THE AQBO. "RIGHT NOW THIEU DARES TO TALK WITH THE COMMUNIST" HANH DAO CONCLUDED, "SO WHY CAN HE NOT TALK SERIOUSLY WITH AN QUANG?"

3. THICH NHU BUU, ARVN AN QUANG CAPLAIN, WAS PRESENT DURING PART OF POLITICAL OFFICER'S VISIT AND ASKED SEVERAL POINTED QUESTIONS, REGARDING THE NEWLY-FORMED U S/ DRV JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE, HANH DAO COMMENTED THAT NHU BUU, "LIKE MANY OTHER VIETNAMESE", WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY NEWS REPORTS CONCERNING FUTURE USE ECONOMIC AID TO THE DRV. HANH DAO EXPLAINED: "THE NVA IN THE MOUNTAINS HAVE TWO

GREAT PROBLEMS-- A LACK OF RICE AND POOR TRANSPORTATION FROM NVN
YET NOW WE SEE THE US GIVING THEM AID TO GROW MORE RICE AND TO
REBUILD THE BRIDGES AND ROADS DESTROYED BY US BOMBING."

PART V MR 2

1. MOST ACTION OCCURRED IN NORTHERMOST AND SOUTHERMOST COASTAL
PROVE. OF BINH DINH AND BINH THUAN. IN NORTHERN FOUR DISTRICTS OF
BINH DINH, FOUR GROUND ATTACKS AND ONE ABF WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST
COMPANIES OF 22 ND ARVN DIV., CAUSING LIGHT CASUALITIES.

2. PHU CAT ICCS TEAM HAS REPORTEDLY COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATION
OF 21 INCIDENTS COMPLAINED OF BY GVN IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT, BINH
DINH, BUT IS BEING CLOSE- MOUTHED ABOUTS RESULTS. ICCS
INVESTIGATION OF MAR. 1 2 ABF ON PHAN THIET CITY, DUE TO HAVE
STARTED MARCH 14, NOW DELAYED BY PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND BY
LACK OF AUTHORIZATION FROM SAIGON HEADQUARTERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 4252

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (4252 VICE 8254

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3. PHU BON PROVINCE CHIEF (PC) HAS BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT PLAN FOR SECURING AND RE- SETTLLING PIHAO RIVER VALLEY IN NORTH- CENTRAL PART OF PHU THIEN DISTRICT. OB BEING CONSTRUCTED IN AREA AND WHEN SECURITY PERMITS RESIDENTS OF TEMPORARY SETTLEMENTS IN MAI LINH WILL MOVE 6 KILOMETERS NORTH, THEREBY BEING WITHIN COMMUTING DISTANCE OF FERTILE RICE LAND OF PIHAO VALLEY. PC ALSO ANTICIPATES THAT OB WILL GAIN GVN CONTROL OF 580 PEOPLE PRESENTLY LIVING IN PIHAO AREA.

4. QUI NHON POLOFF REPORTS ARVN 22 ND DIV. HAS SENT A BATTALION INTO NORTHERN TWO- THIRDS OF VINH THANH VALLEY NORTHWEST OF BINH KHE DISTRICT HQ TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR REFUGEES WHO WANT TO HARVEST THIRD- MONTH RICE CROP THEY PLANTED SOME TIME AGO. SECTOR OFFICERS ANY AREA WAS IN GVN HANDS AS OF JAN. 28, BUT US ADVISORS DISAGREE; AREA IN QUESTION CONTROLLED BY ENEMY AT LEAST SINCE SPRING 1972 OFFENSIVE, ALTHOUGH REFUGEES WERE PROBABLY PERMITTED TO GO BACK IN TO PLANT RICE. ARVN OPERATION SO FAR MEETING LITTLE RESISTANCE.

5. BINH DINH S-2 TOLD QUI NHON POLOFF HE HAS LOW- LEVEL AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM VILLAGES THAT VC INTEND TO PROPOSE TWO POINTS IN CENTRAL BINH DINH FOR ADDITIONAL PRISONER EXCAHGES. PRISONERS SAID TO INCLUDE ARVN FIELD- GRADE OFFICERS, GVN VILLAGE/ HAMLET OFFICIALS, AND SOME AMERICANS. LOCATIONS ARE IN VINH THANH VALLEY (AREA OF 22 ND DIV. OPERATION DESCRIBED ABOVE) AND IN SUOI CAN VALLEY, PHU CAT DISTRICT. POLOFF EMPHASIZES LACK OF CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS BUT BELIEVES LOCATIONS ARE PLAUSIBLE IF PRG OBJECT IN CHOOSING EXCHANGE- POINTS IS TO DEMONSTRATE CONTROL OF AREAS THEY CONSIDER IMPORTANT.

PART VI MR 3

1. ENEMY MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED IN THE PRCEDING 24 HOURS, BUT AT A LOWER LEVEL. NINETEEN SEPARATE INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED BY MR 3 CORPS HEADQUARTERS, CONSISTING OF 7 GROUND ENGAGEMENTS AND 12 ATTACKS BY FIRE. ACTIVITY CENTERED IN THE AN LOC, LAI KHE AND BEN CAT SUB- SECTOR AREAS. IN A SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT IN THE

LATTER AREA OF OPERATIONS, THE 324 TH RF COMPANY RECEIVED NEARLY 100 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORNANACE IN 5 SEPARATE ABFS, AND WAS SUBJECTED TO SUSTAINED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. DESPITE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BARRAGE ONLY 3 RF WERE WOUNDED.

2. SEVERAL RVN MILITARY SOURCES AND A FEW PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE PREDICTING THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL LAUNCH ANOTHER OFFENSIVE IN THIS MILITARY REGION IN THE NEXT 30-60 DAYS. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM USUALLY RELIABLE AGENTS, DOCUMENTS CAPTURED FROM THE ENEMY IN THE PAST 10 DAYS AND INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS ALL POINT IN THAT DIRECTION. THE PROVINCE CHIEFS WITH WHOM THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED CLAIM THAT THE ENEMY IS REGROUPING AND THAT ALL THEY REQUIRE IS A SIGNAL FROM COSVN TO GET THE OFFENSIVE UNDERWAY. NO ONE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD OCCUR BEFORE THE DEPARTURE OF THE AMERICAN FORCES ON X PLUS 60. CONGEN SUPPORTS THESIS THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO MOVE MILITARILY IF THEY SUFFER A HUMILIATING DEFEAT IN THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

3. III CORPS UNITS HAVE CAPTURED A PRISONER JUST RELEASED TO TH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
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PHNOM PENH
VIENTIANE
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